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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 NEA-10 HA-05
AF-10 /095 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNJOHNSON:LCB
APPROVED BY M/CT:ACE QUAINTON
EUR/EE:HGILMORE
SY:WDECOURCY (INFO)
EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/CE:SKLINGAMAN (INFO)
----------078686 222309Z /61
O R 222208Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YO, GW, US

SUBJECT:BELOVSKI CALL ON QUAINTON - ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON AMBASSADOR QUAINTON (M/CT) ON AUGUST 21 TO REVIEW THE INCIDENT AT THE FRG CONGEN IN CHICAGO LAST WEEK AND TO SEEK STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISTS IN THE US. REGARDING THE YUGOSLAV REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF CROATIAN TERRORISTS IN THE FRG AND THE FOUR FRG TERRORISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA, BELOVSKI REPEATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA COULD NOT ACCEPT A "DOUBLE STANDARD." QUAINTON SAID THAT THE US "CANNOT TOLERATE" VIOLENCE IN
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OUR SOCIETY AGAINST FOREIGN GUESTS, BUT THAT WE CAN ACT ONLY AGAINST SPECIFIC CRIMINAL ACTS. WE CONDEMN TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS AND FOR WHATEVER ALLEGED PURPOSES AND SEEK EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL MEASURES TO COMBAT IT. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOVSKI BEGAN BY EXPRESSING THANKS TO AMBASSADOR

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QUAINTON FOR HIS EFFECTIVE ROLE IN HELPING TO RESOLVE THE INCIDENT IN CHICAGO LAST THURSDAY. HE SAID THAT THE INCIDENT SHOWS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREAT POSED BY THIS SMALL GROUP OF TERRORISTS AND ASSERTED THAT THEIR

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS ADD TO THE DANGER. THEY ARE ONE COMPONENT OF THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE US (AND ELSEWHERE) WHO OPPOSE GOOD RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. THE OTHERS, WHOSE NUMBERS FLUCTUATE AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, INCLUDE RIGID ANTI-COMMUNISTS AND THOSE WHO OPPOSE YUGOSLAVIA'S SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB CAUSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE LATTER WILL NOT BE MOLLIFIED UNTIL THERE IS GENUINE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH IS NOT LIKELY VERY SOON, SAID BELOVSKI.

3. AMBASSADOR QUAINTON REPLIED THAT WE APPRECIATED THE CLOSE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY DURING THE CRISIS LAST THURSDAY. ON THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM IN THIS COUNTRY, QUAINTON SAID THAT WE "CANNOT TOLERATE" VIOLENCE IN OUR OWN SOCIETY DIRECTED AGAINST FOREIGN GUESTS AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO PREVENT IT AND TO PROSECUTE THE PERPETRATORS. THIS OBJECTIVE IS COMPLICATED BY OUR DECENTRALIZED POLICE JURISDICTIONS, BUT WE MAINTAIN CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH ALL LEVELS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES. THE TERRORISTS INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT WILL BE TRIED
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IN ACCORD WITH OUR LAWS. THEY ARE EVIDENTLY "FANATICS" WHO ACT OUT OF DEEP COMMITMENT TO THEIR CAUSE. WE INFORMED BELOVSKI THAT BAIL HAD BEEN SET AT $1 MILLION EACH AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN CHARGED UNDER THE RELEVANT PROVISION OF US LAW CONCERNING THE TAKING AND THREATENING OF HOSTAGES.

4. BELOVSKI SAID THAT THE ESSENCE OF YUGOSLAV COMPLAINTS OVER MANY YEARS HAS BEEN THE LACK OF EFFECTIVE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS INCIDENTS. THIS SITUATION HAD IMPROVED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WITH TRIALS AND SENTENCING IN TWO MAJOR CASES, THE TWA HIJACKING AND THE UN MISSION INTRUSION. THE PROBLEM WITH THE FRG AUTHORITIES IS THAT YUGOSLAVIA CANNOT TOLERATE A "DOUBLE STANDARD" ON TERRORISM IN WHICH ACTS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA ARE CALLED "POLITICAL" AND THOSE AGAINST THE US OR OTHERS ARE CALLED "TERRORISM." AS TO THE CHICAGO TERRORISTS, BELOVSKI ASSERTED THAT THEY ARE NOT "FANATICS" BUT ARE PAID TERRORISTS. ONE OF THEM, KELAVA, HAS BEEN ON ALL THE LISTS FURNISHED BY YUGOSLAVIA TO US SECURITY AGENCIES. KODZOMAN IS BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN A "DRUG CLAN" AND BOTH WILL DO ANYTHING

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FOR MONEY. THE YUGOSLAVS HAD LEARNED EVEN BEFORE THIS INCIDENT THAT KODZOMAN WAS A PRIME SUSPECT IN THE FIREBOMBING OF THE YUGOSLAV CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO. HE LIVES IN CHICAGO BUT SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS IN SAN FRANCISCO AROUND THE TIME OF THE MARCH INCIDENT. THE YUGOSLAV PUBLIC OFTEN ASKS WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE

INVOLVED IN THESE EVENTS, SAID BELOVSKI. THE ANSWER IS MONEY AND PRESSURE. IN THE FRG THE ANTI-YUGOSLAV GROUPS OFTEN MEET AND ASSIST THE "GUEST WORKERS" AND BUILD UP DEPENDENCE. IN THE INCIDENTS IN THIS COUNTRY, THERE IS NO DOUBT WHO STANDS BEHIND THE PERPETRATORS. THESE SUPPORTERS ADVERTISE OPENLY AND RAISE BAIL MONEY. BUT NOTHING IS DONE TO THEM. WILL THE US NOW MOVE AGAINST
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THESE INSTIGATORS, BELOVSKI ASKED, ADDING THAT THIS WAS A LONG-RANGE PROBLEM AND A LONG-RANGE GOAL.

5. QUAINTON REPLIED THAT WE WILL CERTAINLY USE ANY INFORMATION WHICH THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ABOUT SPECIFIC TERRORISTS IN AN EFFORT TO STAMP OUT THIS THREAT. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT WE CAN ONLY ACT AGAINST SPECIFIC CRIMINAL ACTS OR ACTIVITY WHICH VIOLATES US LAW. PROVIDING BAIL OR VOICING SUPPORT ARE NOT ILLEGAL ACTS. ON THE GENERAL POINT, THE US CONDEMNS TERRORISM OF ALL TYPES AND FOR WHATEVER ALLEGED PURPOSES. WE DO NOT DISTINQUISH BETWEEN "TYPES" OF TERRORISTS. IN DEALING WITH SOME OTHER GOVERNMENTS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE SOMETIMES SEEN A DISTURBING TENDENCY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "GOOD" AND "BAD" TERRORISTS DEPENDING ON THE POLITICAL CAUSE THEY CLAIM TO SERVE.

6. BELOVSKI REPLIED THAT THE YUGOSLAV POSITION HAD IN THE PAST BEEN "BURDENED" BY THE FEAR THAT NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, WOULD BE UNDERMINED BY STRONG ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES. THIS VIEW HAS EVOLVED WITH THE PERCEPTION THAT THESE STRUGGLES WOULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AND THAT TERRORISM REQUIRES STRONG ACTION. RETURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT TERRORISTS IN THIS COUNTRY, BELOVSKI SAID HE REALIZES THAT THE US CANNOT ARREST PEOPLE UNLESS THERE IS A SPECIFIC CRIMINAL ACT. BUT THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE TERRORISTS ARE ALSO INSTIGATORS. IN ANY CASE, HE HOPED THAT THE PRESENT INCIDENT WOULD BE HANDLED LIKE THE OTHER TWO RECENT CASES. QUAINTON AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GO FORWARD FROM THE PRESENT RATHER THAN LAMENTING THE PAST.

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7. BELOVSKI ASKED ABOUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TERRORISTS AND THE FRG AUTHORITIES. QUAINTON REPLIED THAT WE HAD WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE FRG DURING THIS INCIDENT. OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT THE PRISONER BILANDZIC AND HIS BROTHER IN CHICAGO HAD CONVINCED THE TERRORISTS THAT THIS ACTION WOULD NOT HELP HIS CASE AND THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE UP. THE FRG MADE NO CONCESSIONS.

BELOVSKI SAID THEY PROBABLY INDICATED THAT THE EXTRADITION DECISION WAS NOT FINAL. QUAINTON SAID THAT MAY BE SO. IT WAS PERHAPS FORTUITOUS IN THIS REGARD THAT THE FRG CONSTITUTIONAL COURT HAD AGREED TO HEAR BILANDZIC'S APPEAL BEFORE THE INCIDENT.

8. BELOVSKI RETURNED TO "THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND" THE "PROFESSIONAL TERRORISTS." ANOTHER ASPECT, HE CONTINUED, IS THAT WITH THE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS MANY MORE EMIGRES ARE PREPARED TO "COME FORWARD" IN A FRIENDLY WAY. THE OPPONENTS OF GOOD RELATIONS ARE THEREFORE "SQUEEZED AND FRIGHTENED," AND MUST DEMONSTRATE THEIR CASE PUBLICLY. IF BILANDZIC IS EXTRADITED THIS WILL ALSO SHOW THESE EMIGRES THAT THEY ARE NOT IMMUNE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT SENTENCE IS FINALLY HANDED DOWN. THEY ARE DESPERATE, BUT THEY HAVE STRONG TIES TO AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN EUROPE AND THEREFORE CONSTITUTE AN INTERNATIONAL THREAT.

9. TURNING TO OTHER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, BELOVSKI SAID THAT THE "SPECIAL" PROTECTION IN NEW YORK DID NOT INCLUDE A GUARD IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS A PUBLIC PLACE AND OFTEN HAD 50-60 VISA APPLICANTS WAITING. WE SAID WE WOULD PASS ON HIS CONCERN. ON THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSULATE GENERAL, HE SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE TRYING TO FIND NEW QUARTERS BUT THUS FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE SUGGESTED THAT THEY CONSIDER BUYING A BUILDING, BUT BELOVSKI DOUBTED WHETHER THEY WOULD GET MORE PROTECTION IN THEIR OWN BUILDING THAN IN A HIGH-

RISE. WE SAID WE WOULD LOOK FURTHER INTO THIS PROBLEM. ON THE GASI CASE IN NEW YORK (THE YUGOSLAV CONGEN EMPLOYEE WHO HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE THREAT LAST WEEK), BELOVSKI SA,D THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE MAN TO RETURN HOME. HIS PREDICAMENT CAUSED SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAIN THROUGHOUT THE YUGOSLAV COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK. AFTER CHECKING WITH THE OFFICE OF SECURITY, WE INDICATED THAT

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GASI SHOULD REMAIN ONE MORE NIGHT IN THE HOTEL, BUT THAT AFTER THAT IT WAS UP TO THE YUGOSLAVS. WE TOOK THE THREAT SERIOUSLY AND WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD, BUT THE DECISION ON WHEN HE SHOULD RETURN HOME WOULD HAVE TO BE THEIRS.
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